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**Programme of activities of the International Decade
of the World's Indigenous People**

Status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/53/150



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I. Mandate of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

1. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/131 of 13 December 1985 to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities by providing them with financial assistance funded by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities. According to the same resolution, the Secretary-General was mandated to present a biennial report to the General Assembly on the activities undertaken with the resources of the Fund, showing income and expenditure, assets and liabilities and pledges and payments received for the Fund.

2. The General Assembly extended the mandate of the Fund by resolution 50/156 of 21 December 1995 by deciding that the Fund should also be used to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the open-ended inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights established by the Commission in its resolution 1995/32 of 3 March 1995, as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1995/32 of 25 July 1995.

II. Board of Trustees

3. The Fund is administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations by the Secretary-General assisted by a Board of Trustees. The mandate of the Board is to advise the Secretary-General on the administration of the Fund, through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

4. The Board is composed of five persons with relevant experience with issues affecting indigenous populations, who serve in their personal capacity. The Board members are appointed by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, for a three-year renewable term. At least one member is a representative of a widely recognized organization of indigenous people.

5. The five members who have been appointed by the Secretary-General for the period from 1997 to 1999, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution, are themselves indigenous people: Mr. Michael Dodson (Australia), Mr. Ole Ntimama (Kenya), Ms. Tove Petersen (Greenland/Denmark), Ms. Nina Pacari Vega (Ecuador) and Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz (Philippines), who served as the Board's Chairperson at its tenth and eleventh sessions.

6. According to the criteria established by the General Assembly in resolution 40/131, the beneficiaries of assistance for the Fund are representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations and communities: (a) who are so considered by the Board of Trustees; (b) who would not, in the opinion of the Board, be able to attend the sessions of the Working Groups without the assistance provided by the Fund; and (c) who would be able to contribute to a deeper knowledge on the part of the Working Groups of the problems affecting indigenous populations and who would secure a broad geographical representation.

7. Application forms are received by the secretariat of the Fund and Board no later than 15 February; they are then evaluated, summarized and presented at the annual session of the Board.

III. Contributions and pledges

8. In order to meet requests for financing during the current year, contributions must be paid to the Fund by March, to be available and duly recorded when the annual session of the Board of Trustees is held. Any contribution made later than March is carried over to the following year.

A. Contributions

9. The following contributions were received from Governments from 22 April 1996 to 1 July 1998:¹

<i>State</i>	<i>Amount / US\$</i>	<i>Date</i>
Canada	10 799	04 03 1997
	10 110	01 05 1998
Cyprus	1 000	13 06 1997
	1 000	12 05 1998
Estonia	900	26 06 1996
	900	10 06 1997
Total	24 709	
Finland	44 458	15 01 1997
	39 158	23 12 1997
	38 480	03 06 1998
Greece	6 300	09 05 1996
	6 000	20 05 1996
	6 000	29 05 1997
	6 300	03 06 1997
	6 300	14 04 1998
	6 000	28 04 1998
Japan	20 000	12 04 1996
	20 000	31 03 1997
	20 000	19 03 1998
Netherlands	36 688	10 06 1997
	36 968	10 06 1998
New Zealand	20 357	02 07 1996
Norway	41 131	30 12 1997
Switzerland	20 548	27 01 1998
Tunisia	1 067	31 12 1996
Total	400 464	

10. The following contributions were received from non-governmental organizations from 22 April 1996 to 1 July 1998:¹

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Amount US\$</i>	<i>Date</i>
Aboriginal and Torres Strait	15 951	15 05 1996
Islander Commission	14 817	02 07 1997
Shumin Gaikou Centre	1 300	14 04 1997
	1 500	18 03 1998
Total	33 568	

B. Pledges

11. The following pledges were outstanding as at 1 July 1998: Sweden (US\$) 63,291 on 26 May 1998 and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (AUS\$) 20,000 on 2 June 1998.

IV. Tenth session of the Board

12. The tenth session of the Board of Trustees was held at Geneva from 21 to 25 April 1997. The session was attended by Mr. Michael Dodson, Ms. Tove Petersen and Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz (Chairperson-Rapporteur). Mr. Ole Ntimama and Ms. Nina Pacari Vega were not able to attend the Board's session. Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz was elected Chairperson-Rapporteur.

A. Financial situation of the Fund

13. In accordance with the rules governing the United Nations voluntary trust funds, the Board, at its tenth session, had approximately US\$ 104,464 available for travel grants.

B. Requests for assistance

14. The Board of Trustees considered 47 applications from indigenous communities and organizations requesting financial assistance to participate in the fifteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, held at Geneva from 17 July to 1 August 1997, and five applications requesting financial assistance to participate in the third session of the Working Group established by the Commission on Human Rights, held at Geneva from 27 October to 7 November 1997.

C. Recommendations of the Board of Trustees

15. After examining the applications the Board recommended: 22 grants, with an estimated total amount of US\$ 77,924, for representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the session of the Working Group of the Subcommission (see annex I.A) and five grants, with an estimated total amount of US\$ 24,760, for representatives

of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the session of the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights (see annex I.B).

16. As part of the reporting cycle, the Board held a meeting with interested donors, informed the participants about recommendations adopted and answered questions.

D. Implementation

17. The recommendations of the Board of Trustees were approved by the Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The travel grants for the beneficiaries were paid on time, to assure the participation of the beneficiaries at the sessions of the two Working Groups.

V. Eleventh session of the Board

18. The eleventh session of the Board of Trustees was held at Geneva from 30 March to 1 April 1998 with the participation of Mr. Michael Dodson, Ms. Tove Petersen and Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz. Mr. Ole Ntimama informed the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mrs. Mary Robinson, that with great regret he had to resign as member of the Board. Ms. Nina Pacari Vega did not attend the Board's session. The session was opened by Mrs. Robinson.

A. Financial situation of the Fund

19. According to information made available to the Board, a sufficient amount of money was available and had been authorized to implement the cost plan for expenditure envisaged for 1998 on the basis of the recommendations made by the Board in 1997. The recommendations were: to allocate about US\$ 120,000 for 30 grants to cover travel and stipend expenses for approximately 30 indigenous representatives to attend the sixteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations from 27 to 31 July 1998 and to allocate about US\$ 80,000 for approximately 20 indigenous representatives to attend the fourth session of the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on the elaboration of a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples from 19 to 30 October 1998.

B. Requests for assistance

20. The Board of Trustees considered applications from indigenous communities and organizations requesting financial assistance to participate in the sixteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and applications requesting financial assistance to participate in the fourth session of the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on the elaboration of a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, which represented a total of 75 potential beneficiaries from approximately 250 indigenous communities to participate in the meetings of the two Working Groups.

C. Recommendations of the Board of Trustees

21. After having examined the applications, the Board recommended that grants, with an estimated total amount of US\$ 144,250, be awarded to 50 representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the session of the Working Group of the Subcommission (see annex II.A).

22. The Board also recommended that grants, totalling approximately US\$ 11,126, be awarded to three representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the session of the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights (see annex II.B).

23. The Board discussed the reasons why the Fund had received so few applications to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights, recommended that its secretariat invite applications from organizations authorized to participate in the Working Group and extended the deadline for consideration of applications to 31 July 1998. New applications will be analysed and summarized by the secretariat; Board members will be consulted by the end of August 1998 for recommendations for grants to a maximum amount of US\$ 50,000; and the beneficiaries will be informed and their travel arrangements organized in September.

24. As part of the established practice of reporting on the use of voluntary contributions, donors were invited to attend a special one-hour meeting with the Board. The Board members expressed their gratitude to the donors for their contributions to the Fund and recommended a sustained effort and, if possible, an increase in contributions.

25. The Board members followed up on a proposal made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to assist them in their fund-raising efforts and recommended that Mrs. Robinson send a letter of appeal to donors for additional contributions, to be paid by the end of the year, to allow the Board to further increase the number of grants and the representation of indigenous communities and organizations next year.

26. The Board encourages indigenous peoples' organizations to submit applications for the participation of indigenous experts in the "thematic field" for the seventeenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples in 1999.

D. Implementation

27. On behalf of the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights approved all recommendations made by the Board of Trustees. Implementation of the recommendations began in April when travel arrangements were made allowing the beneficiaries to attend the sixteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations in July.

28. Following a request by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the travel arrangements of the beneficiaries of travel grants from the Fund were changed to allow them also to participate in the Roundtable on Intellectual Property and Indigenous Peoples, organized by WIPO on 23 and 24 July 1998. The World Intellectual Property Organization paid for the extra days of stipend for the beneficiaries.

29. Application forms have been sent to all organizations authorized by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to participate in the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights, encouraging them to apply for funding from the Voluntary Fund.

Notes

¹ According to official receipt vouchers available at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Annex I

List of recommended beneficiaries of assistance from the Fund to attend

A. Fifteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities from 17 July to 1 August 1997

<i>State</i>	<i>Application number</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Representatives</i>	<i>Cost (US\$)</i>	<i>Gender</i>
North America					
Canada	1	Deh Cho First Nations	Grand Chief Gerald Antoine-Deh Cho	3 862	M
United States of America	42	Teton Sioux Nation Treaty Council	Ellen Wright	4 002	F
Asia					
India	11	Indian Confederation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples	Ramdayal Munda	3 032	M
Nepal	9	Kirat Koyu Rais' Uplifting Association	Kumar Rai	3 162	M
Philippines	12	Cordillera Peoples Alliance for the Defense of the Ancestral Domain and for Self-Determination	Joan Carling	3 842	F
South America					
Bolivia	41	Comisión Internacional de Derechos de Pueblos Indígenas	Julio Tumiri Apaza	5 072	M
Brazil	35	Comite Intertribial - Memoria e Ciencia Indígena	Marcos Terena	3 612	M
Peru	34	Comisión Jurídica para el Autodesarrollo de los Pueblos Originarios Andinos, "CAPAJ"	Gladys Vasquez Poma	5 042	F
	38	Aguaruna and Huambisa a Council	Evaristo Ikanan	4 792	M
Central America					
Honduras	40	Confederación de Pueblos Autoctonos de Honduras	Mauricio Castro	3 672	M
Mexico	24	Unión de Comunidades Indígenas Huicholes de Jalisco/Defensa Territorial de Desarrollo de Xapata y Pueblos Wisarikas Segregados por los límites Estatales	J. Candelario Cosio	3 912	M
Africa					
Burkina Faso	20	Association des Femmes Refugiees de l'Azawadou Burkina Faso (representing Touareg people in Mali and Nigeria)	Saoudata Aboubacrine	2 592	F
Kenya	3	Organization for Survival of Illaikipiak Indigenous Masai Group Initiative	Ole J. Ndanereh	2 682	M
Mauritius	6	Chagosian Social Committee	Fernand Mandarin	3 462	M
Nigeria	43	Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People	Mr. Barika Idamkue	3 952	M

<i>State</i>	<i>Application number</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Representatives</i>	<i>Cost (US\$)</i>	<i>Gender</i>
South Africa	4	The Working Group of Indigenous Minorities in Southern Africa in Namibia The Kuru Development Trust in Botswana The South African San Institute in South Africa ^a		3 282	
United Republic of Tanzania	44	Friends of People Close to Nature	Mahiya Matulu Makala	2 832	M
Europe					
Russian Federation	13	Association of Indigenous People of Sakhalin	Konstantin V. Igran	3 802	M
	27	Association of Evenks in Yakutsk	Vasilyeva Ezhana Ivanova	3 442	F
	28	Mezhdurechensk Association of Indigenous Peoples "Altin Shor"	Chulyzhanova Lyubov Ilyichna	2 422	F
	29	Kamchatskaya Association of Indigenous People of the North	Aseyeva Anna Alekseyevna	2 422	F
	30	Nenets peoples' association "Yasavey"	Vilko Yuriy Petrovich	3 032	M
Total (A):				77 924	

^a The Board also agreed to finance one San person to be chosen by the South African San Institute.

B. Third session of the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights from 27 October to 7 November 1997

<i>State</i>	<i>Application number</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Representatives</i>	<i>Cost (US\$)</i>	<i>Gender</i>
Australia	3	New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council	Mr. Towney	6 946	M
Morocco	5	Association Nouvelle pour la Culture et des Arts Populaires	Chawki Wafaa	2 656	F
Peru	4	Asociacion Tea-Amaro Runa	Madeleine Herencia	5 646	F
Philippines	1	Lumad Mindanaw Peoples Federation	Edtami P. Mansayagan	4 816	M
	2	International Alliance of the Indigenous Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests	Hermine Minnie Degawan	4 696	F
Total (B):				24 760	
Total both Working Groups (A+B):			24 760 + 77 924 =	102 684	

Annex II

List of recommended beneficiaries of assistance from the Fund to attend

A. Sixteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities from 27 to 31 July 1998

State	City	Application number	Peoples represented	Organization	Name and gender of representative	Estimated cost (US\$)
Algeria	Tizi-Ouzou	21	Berber of Kabylie	Mouvement Culturel Berbere	Mohamed Ikarbane (M)	1 821
Argentina	Buenos Aires	20	Toba, Wichi, Colla, Mocovi, Mapuche, Diaguita-Calchaqui, Ranquel, Tehuelche, Chorote, Guaraní, and Pilaga	Asociación Indígena de la República de Argentina	Rogelio Guanuco (M)	2 821
	San Salvador de Jujuy	46	Kolla Quechua	Instituto Qechwa Jujuymanita	Concepcion Catunta Castro (F)	2 821
					Edilberto Soto de la Cruz (M)	2 821
Bhutan	Thimphu	47	Sharchokpa population	Druk Indigenous People's Rights Organization	Kesang Kinlay Namgyel (M)	2 721
Brazil	Rio Branco-Acre	15	163 different populations, represented by 56 indigenous organizations in the 9 Amazonian states of Brazil	Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of Brazilian Amazonia and União das Nações Indígenas do Acre	Sebastiao Manchirey (M)	2 621
	Brasília	34	Paresi, Umutina	Comite Intertribal - Memória e Ciência Indígena	Francisca Novantino (F)	3 021
Canada	Calgary	28	Cree, Blackfoot, Stoney, Peigan, Sarcee, Lubicon and others	Canadian Indigenous Women's Resource Institute	Doreen Spence (F)	3 121
Chile	Liquique	27	Mapuches	Federación Provincial de Comunidades Aymaras "Aymar Markas"	Gumerindo Mamani Mamani (M)	3 221
El Salvador	San Salvador	31	10 different communities	Instituto para el Rescate Ancestral Indígena Salvadoreño	Manuel Vazquez (M)	3 221
France French Guyana	Awala-Yalimapo	35	6 different Guyanese communities	Fédération des organisations amérindiennes de Guyane	Jocelyn Roger Therese (M)	1 421
France French New Caledonia	Paita	40	Kanak	Conseil Nationale pour les droits du peuple autochtone de Nouvelle-Calédonie	Alexis Toudka (M)	1 421
					2 people ^a	3 321
						3 321

^a Upon the condition that the applicant submits the names of the participants and indicates that the application is supported by indigenous populations

State	City	Application number	Peoples represented	Organization	Name and gender of representative	Estimated cost (US\$)
Guatemala	Ciudad de Guatemala	38	Maya-Kaqchikel	Escuela Maya de Derechos Humanos	Marco Antonio Curuchich Mux (M)	3 221
India	New Delhi	24	Santhals, Mundas, Oraons	Chotanagpue Adivasi Sewa Samiti	Bineet Jaynel Mundi (M)	3 021
	Calcutta	3	Jumma Peoples	Jumma Peoples Link	Priti Bindu Chakma (M)	2 721
	Ahmedabad	30	Adivasi, Bhils, Warlis, Dhodias, Chaudharies, Bhilalas and others	Indian Confederation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples	Juliana Chakma (F)	2 721
	Thane District	48	Warli	All India Coordinating Forum of the Adivasi	Siddharaj Soorjibhai Solanki (M)	2 721
Kenya	Nanyuki	49	Naga	Naga Women's Union, Manipur	Carlus Dharma Dhanga (M)	2 721
		13	Il-Laikipiak Massai	Organization for Survival of Il-Laikipiak Indigenous Maasai Group Initiatives	Gina Shangkhram (F)	2 721
Morocco	Rabat	16	Amazigh (Berbere)	Association Nouvelle de la culture et des arts populaires	Johnson M. N. Ole Kaunga (M)	2 721
Namibia	Windhoek	26	San	Working Group of Indigenous Minorities in Southern Africa	Anne G. Resiano (F)	2 721
	Windhoek	50	Damara, Bondelswarts and others	Khoekhogowab Curriculum Committee	Fatima Mord (F)	1 721
Nepal	Damak, Jhapa, Mechi	37	Koyu Rai community	Kirat Koyu Rais' Uplifting Association	Kxoe Moses Oma (M)	3 021
	Bhadrapur, Jhapa	23	Kirat Rai communities	Kirat Rai Language and Literary Council	Laurentious S. Davids (M)	3 021
Niger	Agades	9	Kel Tamajaq	Tilalt	Johanness Hoeseb (M)	3 021
	Quetta	32	Hazaras	Tanzeem Nasle Nau Hazara Mughal Quetta	Krishna Koyu Rai (M)	2 721
Panama	Panama City	4	Kuna	Movimiento de la Juventud Kuna	Kalu Ram Khambu Rai (M)	3 121
	El Dorado	12	Kuna	Congreso General de la Cultura Kuna	Effad Emoud Salekh (M)	2 721
Peru	Panama City	17	Ngobe-bugle	Frente de Liberación Guaymi	Ghulum Ali Haidari (M)	2 621
	Arequipa	6	Quechua	Organización Regional de la Mujer Indígena	Tarra Edilma Stanley Icaza (F)	3 221
	Lima	7	Quechua	Chirapaq Centro de Culturas Indias	Maximiliano Ferrer (M)	3 221
Philippines	Baguio City	5	Cordillera Peoples	Cordillera Peoples Alliance	Toribia Venado de Mendoza (F)	3 221
					Rosario del Pilar (F)	5 121
					Tarcilla Rivera Zea (F)	4 921
					Joan O. Carling (F)	3 221

State	City	Application number	Peoples represented	Organization	Name and gender of representative	Estimated cost (US\$)
Rwanda	Kigali	8	Batwa Pygmies	Association for the Promotion of Batwa	Zephyrin Kalimba (M)	3 321
Russian Federation	Abakan, Chakassija	43	Chakasskij People	Council of Chakasskij People	Lew N Nerbishew (M)	2 321
	Miski, Kemerowskaja Oblast	44	Shoria People	Shoria People Council of Elders	Egor Bekrenjow (M)	2 321
	Providenja	45	Tchoukotka people	Association of the Tchoukotka people "Awan"	Jurij J Kaljantogran (M)	2 321
	Kemerowskaja Oblast	51	Shoria People	—	Galina Tunckowa (F)	2 321
South Africa	Southern Kalahari-Mier	25	Southern Kalahari San	Southern Kalahari San	Petrus Vaalboot (M)	3 321
	Cape Town	33	Peoples of the First Nation	Cape Cultural Heritage	Chief Joseph Dominic Little (M)	3 321
			Indigenous Khoi-Khoi and San Peoples	Development Council	Chiefness Sharon Rhoda Leng (F)	3 321
					Chiefness Jean Burgess (F)	3 321
Thailand	Bangkok	18	The Mon People	Mon Unity League	Catherine Peters (F)	3 321
Ukraine	Simferopol	36	Crimean Tatars, Karas, Krymchaks	Mejlis of the Crimea Tatar People	Cham Toik (M)	2 721
United States of America	Rapid City, South Dakota	41	The Traditional Government of the Lakota, Dakota, Nakota Nation	Lakota Nation	Nadir Byckirov (M)	1 921
					Geraldine Harte (F)	2 521
Total beneficiaries: 50 (17 female/31 male) (2 individuals for whom information is not available)						
Total (A): US\$ 144,250						

B. Fourth session of the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on the elaboration of a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples from 19 to 30 October 1998

<i>State</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Application number</i>	<i>Peoples represented</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Name and gender of representative</i>	<i>Estimated cost (US\$)</i>
Peru	Arequipa	1	Populations of Arequipa, Puno, Cusco, Apurimac, Madre de Dios and others	Comisión Jurídica de los Pueblos de Integración Tahuantinsuyana	Fortunato Turpo Choquehuanca (M)	5 842
Russian Federation	Nowokusnezk	2	Shoria People	Association of the Shoria People	Michael Todishew (M)	2 642
Ukraine	Simferopol	3	Crimean Tatars, Karais, Krymchaks	Mejlis of the Crimea Tatar People	Nadir Byekurov (M)	2 642
Total beneficiaries: 3 (3 male)						
Total (B): US\$ 11 126						
Total both Working Groups (A+B): US\$ 144,250 + 11,126 = 155,376						
Geographical distribution (List I and II):						
Africa:			14 beneficiaries	America:	16 beneficiaries	
Asia:			12 beneficiaries	Europe:	11 beneficiaries	

Annex III

How to contribute to the Fund

Contributions to the Fund can be made to:

The United Nations Geneva General Fund
c/o the United Bank of Switzerland
P.O. Box 2770, CH 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland

- in US\$, Account CO - 590 - 160.1
- in CHF, Account CO - 590 - 160.0

Contributions can also be made to the United Nations Cashier's Office, United Nations Secretariat, New York, N.Y. 10017, USA, or United Nations, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Please make payment to the order of the United Nations.

When making a contribution, always add a notation: "for the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, account I H".